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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in October 1997.

3 October 1997

At 0600 hours outlying areas of Tulin, Qabrikha, Sawwanah and Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area and made intensive low-altitude overflights of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

At 1140 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Damur area of Shuf district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1300 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Tulin and Sawwanah came under Israeli artillery fire.

4 October 1997

At 0500 hours outlying areas of Kafr Rumman and Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery fire.

5 October 1997

At 0930 hours an explosive charge exploded on the Hulah - Mays al-Jabal road in Marj Uyun district, killing a woman and her son.

At 2150 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Libbaya in Western Bekaa district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

7 October 1997

At 1110 hours three shells fell in the vicinity of the Mashgharah vocational school. This was followed by a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire from Israeli and Lahad militia forces in Tumat Niha.

8 October 1997

At 1230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at high altitudes.

At 1345 hours Israeli warplanes again overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas but at low altitudes.

At 1400 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, Sawwanah, Qabrikha, Tulin, Jumayjimah and Shaqra came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1625 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1645 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

9 October 1997

At 0800 hours Israeli forces directed heavy bursts of fire at people picking olives in an outlying area of Yuhmur in Nabatiyah district.

11 October 1997

At 1440 hours the hills to the west of Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery fire, and at 1620 hours the shelling was extended to include the southern Mashgharah road.

13 October 1997

At 1045 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

14 October 1997

At 0530 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Kafr Rumman came under artillery fire from Israeli positions in the border strip. The shelling was extended to include outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Luwayzah, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Zahrani River.

At 1220 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Nabi Shit in the Qantarah locality of Baalbek district.

At 1930 hours outlying areas of Yuhmur in Nabatiyah district came under Israeli artillery fire.

15 October 1997

At 0415 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area and strafed the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks. Five artillery shells fired from Israeli positions in the border strip also fell in the vicinity of the barracks.

At 1630 hours outlying areas of Qabrikha, Tulin and Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

16 October 1997

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm and Siddiqin in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1930 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah in Nabatiyah district came under Israeli artillery fire.

17 October 1997

At 1150 hours the southern part of Mashgharah and the vicinity of the vocational school came under Israeli artillery fire. Two citizens were injured.

At 1540 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitudes.

At 1740 hours outlying areas of Jba', Jarju', Arabsalim and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1830 hours the vicinity of the abandoned barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery fire.

18 October 1997

At 1730 hours outlying areas of Jba', Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Arabsalim came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1800 hours the Mashgharah, Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah hills in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire. Israeli helicopters also overflew the area and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army. The shelling and the overflights stopped at 2000 hours.

At 2300 hours the Israeli artillery bombardment resumed in outlying areas of Jba" and was accompanied by bursts of medium-weapons fire. A shop was set on fire and a citizen was wounded.

19 October 1997

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Kafr Rumman and the Lebanese Army position in the town received bursts of heavy fire from Israeli forces on Tuhrah hill. One of those manning the position was wounded in the head.

At 0925 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at medium altitudes.

At 2330 hours the Ayn al-Tinah, Maydun and Mashgharah hills came under Israeli artillery bombardment. Israeli helicopters also overflew the towns in question and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

20 October 1997

At 1745 hours the Ayn al-Tinah hills and the southern Mashgharah mountains came under Israeli artillery fire, and at 1815 hours outlying areas of Libbaya came under similar fire.

At 1835 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Kafr Rumman, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah as well as the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2130 hours Israeli helicopters overflew Maydun, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah. This was accompanied by bursts of fire from the Israeli positions opposite.

21 October 1997

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah came under Israeli artillery fire. Some 20 shells of various calibres landed there.

At 2150 hours outlying areas of Qabrikha, Sawwanah and Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

22 October 1997

At 1030 hours the security situation in the Tumat Niha area in Jazzin district grew tense and clashes took place between men of the Lebanese national

resistance and Lahad militia elements in which all types of weapons were used. Calm was restored at 1200 hours.

At 1030 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar and Haddatha came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1100 hours the southern part of Mashgharah and the vicinity of the vocational school came under artillery fire and received bursts of machine-gun fire from Israeli positions in Tumat Niha. The artillery bombardment and bursts of fire stopped at 1400 hours.

At 1530 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitudes.

At 1530 hours several waves of Israeli warplanes attacked the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and Luwayzah. They fired a number of air-to-surface missiles and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

24 October 1997

At 0930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 1215 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitudes.

At 1730 hours outlying areas of Shaqra, Safad al-Battikh, Majdal Silm, Sawwanah and Khirbat Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2300 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju' and Arabsalim came under Israeli artillery fire.

25 October 1997

Between 0125 and 0140 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Na'imah hills.

26 October 1997

At 0500 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju', Luwayzah, Ayn Qana and Ayn Bu Siwar, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and the Jba'-Kafr Fila wadi came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0530 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, Tulin, Qabrikha, Ghanduriyah, Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery fire. A shell fell on the home of Muhammad Ahmad Nadir. His child was injured and serious damage was done to the house.

At 0545 hours outlying areas of Mansuri, Majdal Zun, Zibqin, Shu'aytiyah, Jibal al-Butm and Siddiqin in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0630 hours an artillery shell fired by Israeli forces in the border strip fell in the garden of the home of Amin Hanna Faris in Sarba, Nabatiyah district. Its detonation caused serious damage to the building.

At 0820 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at high altitudes.

At 1545 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at high altitudes. They again overflew those areas but at low altitudes at 1615 hours. They carried out mock attacks and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1610 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1830 hours outlying areas of Luwayzah, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and the Jba'-Kafr Fila wadi came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2200 hours Israeli helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas, dropping heat balloons in the latter area.

27 October 1997

At 1130 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, areas along the Zahrani River and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1315 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes.

At 1410 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes.

28 October 1997

At 0800 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Bint Jubayl area, carrying out mock attacks and dropping smoke bombs in the Wadi al-Hujayr area.

At 0820 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitudes.

At 0910 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at medium altitudes.

At 0915 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes. This continued until 1730 hours.

At 1600 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

At 2000 hours outlying areas of Frun, Ghanduriyah, Tulin, Qabrikha and Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2010 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 2025 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabatiyah at low altitudes.

At 2040 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Na'imah hills and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

29 October 1997

At 0930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at high altitudes.

At 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at high altitudes.

At 1500 hours Mansuri and Majdal Zun in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

30 October 1997

At 0920 hours the Ayn al-Tinah hills and Jabal Mashgharah heights came under artillery fire. One citizen was wounded.

At 0930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes, carrying out mock attacks in the latter area. The hills around Qilya also came under Israeli artillery fire while warplanes carried out low-level overflights.

At 1445 hours parts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Yuhmur, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and Mazra'at al-Hamra and areas along the Litani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1630 hours the Ayn al-Tinah heights and the vicinity of the vocational school in the southern part of Mashgharah came under Israeli artillery fire.

31 October 1997

At 0800 hours the Ayn al-Tinah and Mashgharah hills in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1015 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitudes.

At 1645 hours Israeli warplanes attacked areas along the course of the Nab' al-Tasah, firing two air-to-surface missiles. They also overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 1700 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese

population, which have left a number of casualties and have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative